



October 20, 2003

Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, NW  
Washington, D C 20554

Dear Kathleen Abernathy,

I am writing to voice my opposition to any FCC-mandated adoption of "broadcast flag" technology for digital television. As a consumer and citizen, I feel strongly that such a policy would be bad for innovation, consumer rights, and the ultimate adoption of DTV.

A robust, competitive market for consumer electronics must be rooted in manufacturers' ability to innovate for their customers. Allowing movie studios to veto features of DTV-reception equipment will enable the studios to tell technologists what new products they can create. This will result in products that don't necessarily reflect what consumers like me actually want, and it could result in me being charged more money for inferior functionality.

If the FCC issues a broadcast flag mandate, I would actually be less likely to make an investment in DTV-capable receivers and other equipment. I will not pay more for devices that limit my rights at the behest of Hollywood. Please do not mandate broadcast flag technology for digital television. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Walter Szewielanczyk  
90 Ward Rd  
Topsham, ME 04086  
USA

October 20, 2003

Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Kathleen Abernathy,

I am a graduate of the Georgia Institute of Technology, with degrees in both Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, and have worked for multiple companies whose livelihood depends upon the production of copyrighted content, so I believe I am well qualified to share an opinion on technological and social merits of this proposal.

I am writing to voice my opposition to any FCC-mandated adoption of "broadcast flag" technology for digital television. As a consumer and citizen, I feel strongly that such a policy would be bad for innovation, consumer rights, and the ultimate adoption of DTV.

As an engineer, I also know from personal experience that every time some bean-counter comes up with one of these hare-brained 'content protection schemes,' they end up creating a product that costs far more to produce, something that is not effective enough to challenge determined copyright infringers, and something that is often so crippled that no customers will want it. Witness the demise of numerous 'protected' content distribution schemes in the recent past: Divx network's 'self-destructing DVDs' were a huge market flop. Likewise the Sony Minidisc, consumer Digital Audio Tapes, and the RocketBook electronic book reader. All of these innovations offered extra convenience, or a smaller form-factor, or some other 'cool' advantage that business execs thought consumers would go for, but all were crippled in one way or another with restrictive rights management, and were resoundingly rejected by the marketplace.

If there is a lesson to take from their experience, it is this: If the FCC truly wants to help usher in a new era of digital communication, if the FCC wants to regulate communications in such a way as to maximize the benefits to society at large, then it must reject misguided pressures from the content-producers to limit technological innovation for the sake of supporting an old industry's business model. Times change. Technology changes. To allow the benefactors of the old technology veto power over the introduction of new technologies that consumers want, is to give those industries free reign to create as restrictive and monopolistic a scheme as they think they can get away with. The 'broadcast flag' proposal does exactly this and that is why it must be rejected, if DTV services are ever truly going to succeed in the market.

A robust, competitive market for consumer electronics must be rooted in manufacturers' ability to innovate for their customers. Allowing movie studios to arbitrarily veto features of DTV-reception equipment will enable the studios to tell technologists what new products they can create. This will result in products that don't necessarily reflect what consumers like me actually want, and it could result in me being charged more money for inferior functionality.

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Sincerely,

John Martinez  
445 Hembree Hollow  
Roswell, GA 30076  
USA



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Sincerely,

Michael Gliboff  
55 Poplar Drive  
Monroe, NY 10950  
USA

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Sincerely,

William McMillan  
4400 Valencia Dr  
Mussey, MI 48014  
USA

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Sincerely,

J. Gouveia  
170 Francis St.  
New Britain, CT 06053  
USA

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Sincerely,

Andrew David  
7300 Bristol Village Dr #109  
Bloomington, MN 55438  
USA

October 17, 2003

Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

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Sincerely,

Thomas Sanderson  
403 Coventry Lane  
East Greenbush, NY 12061  
USA

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Sincerely,

Michael McDonald  
307 Buena Vista  
Albuquerque, NM 87106  
USA



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Sincerely,

Joshua Price  
28345 Suburban Dr.  
Warren, MI 48088  
USA

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Sincerely,

Jeff Benoit  
310 S. Hamel Rd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90048  
USA

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44 Jefferson St  
Bangor, ME 04401  
USA

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Sincerely,

Peter Willis  
2898 Center Court Drive  
Weston, FL 33332  
USA

Sarah Browning  
1907A Park Road NW  
Washington, DC 20010

Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy

As a broadcast television viewer and consumer of electronics and computer products, I urge the Federal Communications Commission to vote against the adoption of a "broadcast flag." I am outraged that the FCC would consider a regulation would restrict the way I enjoy television.

The broadcast flag is neither in my interest nor the public's interest. It will prevent me from watching digital broadcast television in the ways I currently enjoy analog broadcast television—for example, it will restrict my ability to move the video I have recorded for personal viewing from room-to-room and place-to-place.

The broadcast flag will also lock out my computer as a way to watch my favorite shows using my choice of software on a plane or train, or to send a television clip of a high school football game to family and friends.

Furthermore, if computers cannot freely receive digital television, how can I expect creative developers to discover new devices that enable me to use content in exciting ways I haven't even thought of? I value innovative devices like TiVo, ReplayTV and the Windows Media Center PC, which exist today because they were built to open standards using inexpensive, off-the-shelf computer parts.

If the move to digital television does not make the public's viewing experience more enjoyable, flexible, and exciting, what compelling reason do I have as a consumer to buy new digital television equipment? A prettier picture is hardly enough reason for me to dispense with all my current consumer electronics and computer equipment. As a citizen and viewer of broadcast television, I urge you to promote the digital television transition by opposing adoption of the broadcast flag.

Sincerely,

Sarah Browning

Justin King  
70-12 Olcott St, #3  
Forest Hills, NY 11375

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Sincerely,

Justin King

Carrie McLaren  
390 Butler Street  
Brooklyn NY 11217

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Carrie McLaren



Jeff Hyslop  
390 Butler Street  
Brooklyn NY 11217

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Sincerely,

Jeff Hyslop



Thomas Lefler  
304 East Maple  
Apline, UT 84004

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Sincerely,

Thomas Lefler



Earl Dax  
1327 Pine Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19107

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Sincerely,

Earl Dax

Sharon Shockey  
5330 Hornet Avenue  
Beech Grove, IN 46107

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445 12th Street, NW  
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Sincerely,

Sharon Shockey

Carolyn Vogel  
32B Old Arroyo Chamiso Rd.  
Santa Fe, NM 87505

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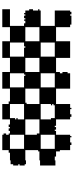
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Sincerely,

Carolyn Vogel



Robert Lesko  
28 Avenue B  
New York

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Robert Lesko

Rob Ross  
151 Milltown Road  
Holmes, NY 12531

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Dear Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy

As a broadcast television viewer and consumer of electronics and computer products, I urge the Federal Communications Commission to vote against the adoption of a "broadcast flag." I am outraged that the FCC would consider a regulation restricting the way I use television, while at the same time attempt to give corporations free reign over the public airwaves. Neither the broadcast flag nor permitting mega-mergers is in the public's interest, convenience, and necessity, nor promote diversity.

The move to digital television should be a choice not a dictum and, in any case, enjoy the same freedoms as analog signals. A prettier picture is hardly enough reason to dispense with all current consumer electronics and computer equipment. This appears to be yet another method to control, not only what is available to a consumer, but to insure that one is a consumer. As a citizen, viewer, and part owner of the broadcast airwaves, I urge you to promote the digital television transition by opposing adoption of the broadcast flag and prevent corporate media monopolies, our "trustees," from becoming nothing more than a plutocracy. The only other alternative is to stop consuming.

Sincerely,

Rob Ross

Liz McMahon  
Messalonskee Middle School Library  
33 School Bus Drive  
Oakland, ME 04963

Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, NW  
Washington, D C 20554

Dear Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy

As a broadcast television viewer and consumer of electronics and computer products, I urge the Federal Communications Commission to vote against the adoption of a "broadcast flag." I am outraged that the FCC would consider a regulation that would restrict the way I enjoy television.

The broadcast flag is neither in my interest nor the public's interest. It will prevent me from watching digital broadcast television in the ways I currently enjoy analog broadcast television—for example, it will restrict my ability to move the video I have recorded for personal viewing from room-to-room and place-to-place. This translates into educators not being able to videotape a program or segment of a program to use in their classroom during instruction. Educators have enough obstacles to enriching their teaching, let's not put more in the way.

The broadcast flag will also lock out my computer as a way to watch my favorite shows using my choice of software on a plane or train, or to send a television clip of a high school football game to family and friends.

Furthermore, if computers cannot freely receive digital television, how can I expect creative developers to discover new devices that enable me to use content in exciting ways I haven't even thought of? I value innovative devices like Windows Media Center PC, which exist today because they were built to open standards using inexpensive, off-the-shelf computer parts.

If the move to digital television does not make the public's viewing experience more enjoyable, flexible, and exciting, what compelling reason do I have as a consumer to buy new digital television equipment? A prettier picture is hardly enough reason for me to dispense with all my current consumer electronics and computer equipment. As an educator/library media specialist and viewer of broadcast television, I urge you to promote the digital television transition by opposing adoption of the broadcast flag.

Sincerely,

Liz McMahon

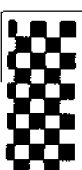
Library Media Specialist

Messalonskee Middle School

Sincerely,

Liz McMahon





Michal Sommers  
6400 Wyoming Blvd NE  
ABQ, NM 87108

Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, NW  
Washington, D C 20554

Dear Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy

As a teacher, broadcast television viewer and consumer of electronics and computer products, I urge the Federal Communications Commission to vote against the adoption of a "broadcast flag." I am outraged that the FCC would consider a regulation would restrict the way I use television as a teaching tool in the classroom and how I enjoy television personally.

The broadcast flag is neither in my interest nor the public's interest. It will prevent me from watching digital broadcast television in the ways I currently enjoy analog broadcast television—for example, it will restrict my ability to move the video I have recorded for personal viewing from room-to-room and place-to-place.

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Furthermore, if computers cannot freely receive digital television, how can I expect creative developers to discover new devices that enable me to use content in exciting ways I haven't even thought of? I value innovative devices like TiVo, ReplayTV and the Windows Media Center PC, which exist today because they were built to open standards using inexpensive, off-the-shelf computer parts.

If the move to digital television does not make the public's viewing experience more enjoyable, flexible, exciting, and beneficial for education, what compelling reason do I have as a consumer to buy new digital television equipment? A prettier picture is hardly enough reason for me to dispense with all my current consumer electronics and computer equipment. As a citizen and viewer of broadcast television, I urge you to promote the digital television transition by opposing adoption of the broadcast flag.

Sincerely,

Michal Sommers

Rosemarie Conforti  
74 Quail Run  
Madison, CT 06443

Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy

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Sincerely,

Rosemarie Conforti